

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8032

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: ENERGY: FRANCE, THE EC AND THE IEA: HOW TO COORDINATE?

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 10011; (B) PARIS 30447; (C) PARIS 30607

1. SUMMARY: BRONDEL OF EC COMMISSION BELIEVES NO ONE, INCLUDING THE FRENCH, AS DECIDED HOW AND WHERE FRANCE WILL COORDINATE WITH THE OTHER CONSUMERS IN PREPARATION FOR THE CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE. HE BELIEVES IT IS LARGELY A POLITICAL QUESTION AND WILL BE DECIDED ON POLITICAL GROUNDS. END SUMMARY.

2. MISSION OFFICER WENT OVE WITH BRONDEL, EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR FOR OIL AND GAS, THE QUESTION OF HOW AND WHERE COOPERATION WITH
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THE FRENCH WOULD TAKE PLACE. BRONDEL ACCOMPANIED ENERGY DIRECTOR

GENERAL SPAAK TO THE IEA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 18-19 IN PARIS. BRONDEL DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT ANYONE AT THAT MEETING--OR THE FRENCH THEMSELVES--HAVE REALLY HAD TIME TO WORK OUT THE MODALITIES OF FRENCH COOPERATION. HE CONSIDERS THE PROBLEM TO BE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY POLITICAL, ALTHOUGH THE ANSWER WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE NUTS AND BOLTS WORK OF THE ENERGY SPECIALISTS IN THE VARIOUS FIELDS. HE ALSO BELIEVES THE DECISION WILL BE MADE AT A HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL. BRONDEL NOTED THAT WITHIN THE EC COMMISSION THE CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE, ALTHOUGH DEALING WITH AN ENERGY MATTER, WILL BE HANDLED PRIMARILY BY THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. BRONDEL WAS AWARE THAT THE FRENCH WERE TALKING ABOUT COORDINATING IN SOME UNSPECIFIED WAY IN THE OECD. HE SAID PERSONALLY HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD NOT BE A GOOD SOLUTION. IT WOULD LAYER THE PROBLEM TOO HEAVILY. WHATEVER THE FRENCH DO, HOWEVER, THE IEA ITSELF WILL BE THE MAJOR FORUM FOR THE PREPARATIONS. APART FROM THE QUESTION OF FRANCE AND OTHER NON-IEA OECD MEMBERS, BRONDEL POINTED OUT THERE WOULD STILL BE THE PROBLEM OF ADDITIONAL COORDINATION WITH NON-OECD CONSUMERS. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THERE IS TIME FOR ALL THOSE STEPS PRIOR TO THE MARCH TARGET DATE FOR THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE WITH THE PRODUCERS. WHILE SOMEWHAT PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROBABILITY OF FINALLY COMING UP WITH A SENSIBLE AND EFFICIENT COORDINATING ARRANGMENT, HE IS CONFIDENT THAT SOMETHING AT LEAST WORKABLE--ALBEIT CUMBERSOME--WILL EMERGE.

4. BRONDEL BELIEVES IMPORTANT COOPERATION IN ENERGY MATTERS AMONG THE NINE, NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE, WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY ITSELF, IN THE ENERGY COMMITTEE AND AT THE ENERGY COUNCIL. GREENWALD

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